a cheap and clean source of energy. In this context, the Government is engaged in a dialogue with a broad range of countries including with the US, Russia and France and they have agreed on the need to have full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India. India and France signed a Declaration on the Development of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes during the recent visit of President Jacques Chirac on February 20, 2006 which underlines the need to develop international cooperation in promoting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Joint Statement issued on July 18, 2005 during the visit of Prime Minister to the US, stated *inter-alia* that the US will work to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India. During the visit of President Bush to India on 2 March 2006 the two sides welcomed the successful completion of discussions on India's separation plan for civil and military nuclear facilities and noted that this historic accomplishment will permit India and US to move forward towards common objective of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the US and between India and the international community as a whole. During the visit of Prime Minister to Russian Federation in December 2005 both sides agreed to actively explore opportunities to further expand cooperation in the sphere of peaceful uses of atomic energy. These discussions are onging.

Talks on Nuclear Agreement with USA

t1806. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Secretary level talks were held between India and America on the issue of implementation of the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether nuclear issue of Iran was also discussed in the above meeting;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any road map has been prepared with respect to implementation of the Nuclear Cooperation Agreement; and

(f) if so, details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Foreign Secretary visited Washington on 21-22 December 2005 for the meeting of the Working Group on civilian nuclear energy and held discussions with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr. Nicholas Burns, on the implementation of India-US uderstanding on civilian nuclear energy cooperation of July 18, 2005. The discussions of the Working Group were carried forward during the visit of Under Secretary Burns to New Delhi on 19-20 January and 23-24 February 2006.

(c) and (d) The issue of Iran was not discussed in meeting of the Working Group on civilian nuclear energy.

(e) and (f) The position with regard to discussions between India-US on civilian nuclear energy cooperation was elucidated in the Prime Minister's *Suo Motu* statement on this subject on February 27, 2006. Furthermore, the India-US Joint Statement issued following talks between Prime Minister and US President on 2 March 2006 underlines the successful completion of discussions on India's separation plan and looks forward to the full implementation of the commitments in the July 18, 2005 Joint Statement on nuclear cooperation. This historic accomplishment will permit our countries to move forward towards our common objective of full civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States and between India and the International community as a whole.

Resolving Sri Lankan Ethnic Crisis

1807. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan President during his recent visit to India sought greater Indian involvement in resolving the Sri Lankan Ethnic crisis and in the economic development of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the specific proposals and issues that were discussed during the talks; and

(c) the outcome of the talks one each issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The President of Sri Lanka